

Abbreviations

A

A. Fib - atrial fibrillation
A/O - alert and oriented
AAL - anterior axillary line
ABD - abdominal
AED - automated external defibrillator
AKA - above knee amputation
ALS - advanced life support
AM - before noon
AMA - against medical advice
AMI - acute myocardial infarction
AMS - altered mental status
APR - air purifying respirator
approx - approximately
ARDS - acute respiratory distress syndrome
ASA - acetylsalicylic acid, aspirin
ASAP - as soon as possible
ausc - auscultation
auto - automobile
AV - atrioventricular
AVB - atrioventricular block

B

BBB - bundle branch block
BG - blood glucose
BID - twice a day
BKA - below knee amputation
BLS - basic life support
BM - bowel movement
BP - blood pressure
bpm - beats per minute
BS - breath sounds
BS=BL - breath sounds equal bilaterally

BSA - body surface area
BSI - body substance isolation
BVM - bag-valve-mask

C

c/a - conscious and alert
c/a/o - conscious, alert and oriented
c/o - complains of
CA - cancer
CAD - coronary artery disease
CC - chief complaint
cc - cubic centimeter
CHF - congestive heart failure
CNS - central nervous system
cont - continued
COPD - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
CO - carbon monoxide
CO² - carbon dioxide
COBRA - Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985
CP - chest pain
CPA - cardiopulmonary arrest
CPR - cardiopulmonary resuscitation
CQI - continuous quality improvement
CRF - chronic renal failure
CRIC - needle cricothyroidotomy
CSF - cerebral spinal fluid
CVA - cerebral vascular accident

Abbreviations

D

dc - discontinue
Defib - Defibrillate
DKA - diabetic ketoacidosis
dL - decaliter
DM - diabetes mellitus
DOE - dyspnea on exertion
Dx - diagnosis

E

ED - emergency department
EKG (ECG) - electrocardiogram

EMS - emergency medical services
EMT - emergency medical technician
EMT-I - emergency medical technician intermediate
EMT-P - emergency medical technician paramedic
ENT - ear, nose, throat
EOA - esophageal obturator airway
epi - epinephrine
ERT - emergency response team
ET - endotracheal tube
ETA - estimated time of arrival
ETOH - ethanol
ETT - endotracheal tube
exam - examination

F

fl - fluid
Fx - fracture

G

GA - O-ethyl dimethylamido-phosphorylcyanide nerve agent (tabun)
GB - isopropyl methylphosphonofluoridate nerve agent (sarin)
GCS - Glasgow Coma Score
GD - pinacolyl methylphosphonofluoridate nerve agent (soman)
GF - Cyclohexyl methylphosphonofluoridate nerve agent
gi - gastrointestinal
gms - grams
grav - gravida
GSW - gunshot wound
gtt(s) - drops
GU - genitourinary
GYN - gynecologic

H

H₂O - water
Hg - mercury
hosp - hospital
HR - heart rate
HTN - hypertension
Hx - history

Abbreviations

I

ICS - incident command system
ICU - intensive care unit
IM - intramuscular
IO - intraosseous
IV - intravenous
IVP - IV push

J

JVD - jugular vein distention

K

Kg - kilogram
KVO - keep vein open

L

L - liter
L&D - labor and delivery
lac - laceration
lg - large
lido - lidocaine
LLQ - left lower quadrant
LMP - last menstrual period
LOC - level of consciousness
LPM - liters per minute
LR - lactated ringers
LS - lung sounds
LUQ - left upper quadrant

M

m - minutes
m/o - month old
mA - milliamp
MAL - mid-axillary line
mcg - microgram
MCI - mass/multiple casualty incident
MCL - mid-clavicular line
mEq - milliequivalent
mg - milligram
mgtt - micro-drop
MI - myocardial infarction
MICU - Mobile Intensive Care Unit
ml - milliliter
mm - millimeter
MPD - Metropolitan Police Dept.
MS - morphine sulfate
MVC - motor vehicle collision

N

N/A - not applicable
N/V - nausea and vomiting
NC - Nasal cannula
neuro - neurological
NG - nasogastric
NKDA - no known drug allergies
NPA - nasopharyngeal airway
NPO - nothing by mouth
NRB - Non-rebreather mask
NS - normal saline
NSR - normal sinus rhythm
NTG - nitroglycerin
NTI - nasotracheal intubation

Abbreviations

O

O₂ - oxygen
OB - obstetrics
OD - overdose
OPA - oropharyngeal airway
OTI - orotracheal intubation

P

PAC - premature atrial contraction
PASG - pneumatic anti-shock garment
PAT - paroxysmal atrial tachycardia
PCN - penicillin
PDOA - presumed dead on arrival
PE - physical exam
PEA - pulseless electrical activity
PEARL - pupils equal and reactive to light
ped - pedestrian
pedi - pediatric
PERRL - pupils equal, round, reactive to light
PID - pelvic inflammatory disease
PJC - premature junctional contraction
PM - afternoon
PMD - primary (private) physician
PND - paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
po - by mouth
post-op - post operative
pr - per rectum
prn - as needed
PSVT - paroxysmal supraventricular tachycardia
Pt - patient

PTA - prior to arrival
PVC - premature ventricular contraction

Q-R

q - every
R/O - rule out
R (RR, resp) - respirations
RLQ - right lower quadrant
ROM - range of motion
RUQ - right upper quadrant
Rx - prescription

S

S-brady - sinus bradycardia
s/s - signs and symptoms
SIDS - sudden infant death syndrome
SL - sublingual
sm - small
SOB - shortness of breath
SQ (SC) - subcutaneous
ST - sinus tachycardia
START - simple triage and rapid treatment
stat - immediately
SVT - supraventricular tachycardia

Abbreviations

T

T - temperature
TB - tuberculosis
TBSA - Total Body Surface Area
TCN - tetracycline
TIA - transient ischemic attack
tid - three times a day
TKO - to keep open
torr - mm/Hg
trans - transport
Tx - treatment

U

ug - microgram
UTI - urinary tract infection
URI - upper respiratory infection

V

vag - vaginal
VF - ventricular fibrillation
VS - vital signs
V-tach (VT) - ventricular tachycardia
VX - O-ethyl S-diisopropylaminomethyl methylphosphonothiolate nerve agent

W-X-Y-Z

w/o - wide open
WNL - within normal limits
wt - weight
y/o - year old

Symbols

@ - at
ā- before
≈ - approximately
c - with
Δ - change
> - greater than
≥ - greater than or equal to
< - less than
≤ - less than or equal to
♂ - male
̄p - after
Rx - prescription
̄s - without
° - degree
♀ - female

Abbreviations

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